26th February 1929]

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am astonished, Sir, that in spite of the unusual care bestowed on questions by the hon. Member, there is no answer to clause (b). May I ask the hon. Minister to give the answer at least now ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Pending the investigation of this matter, Government cannot come to any decision."

Landlord and Tenant

Disposal of suits by Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Chatrapur.

* 1466 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of suits and petitions disposed of by Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Chatrapur, from the date of his taking charge of the office up to 15th October 1928 ;

(b) the number of suits declared ex parte ;

(c) the number of petitions and suits disposed of by giving notice to the parties on the notice board ; and

(d) whether any complaint has been made that the said Divisional Officer is abusing and insulting parties and also pleaders ?

A.—(a) The number of suits and petitions referred to in the question are noted below :—

Suits	434
Miscellaneous applications	221
Execution petitions	439
Total ...	1,094

(b) 265.

(c) No suits or applications were disposed of by giving notice of the date of hearing to the parties on the notice board. In the case of eight execution petitions, notice was given in April 1928 in the manner indicated to the decree-holders to file fees for attachment warrants and sale applications ; but they were not disposed of for default of filing of these fees.

(d) A complaint was received by the Collector from the Bar Association. The allegations made therein were categorically denied by the Deputy Collector and he was corroborated by the statements of two pleaders who were present in court on the occasions referred to.

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know, Sir, that the fact that there are so many ex parte cases—as many as 265—is due to the fact that Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu posts cases in distant places, highly inconvenient to parties as well as pleaders ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I do not think that is a necessary inference, Sir."